

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 PC-01 EUR-12 NIC-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 IO-10 EB-07

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R 031240Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0595

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2281

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL INFIGHTING CONTINUES

REF: BA 2163 AND PREVIOUS

1. MRS. PERON'S MEETING WITH LABOR LEADERS IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 4. ACCORDING TO WELL INFORMED SOURCES, HOWEVER, THEY ARE BEGINNING TO HAVE DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY ON THAT OCCASION TO TALK COLD TURKEY TO HER. APPARENTLY AT BEHEST OF LOPEZ REGA, MRS. PERON WILL GO TO CGT HEADQUARTERS TO TALK TO "LOS MUCHACHOS", AS PERON USED TO DO. THIS IMPLIES LARGE MEETING WITH TV AND PRESS PRESENT. SUPPOSEDLY THIS WOULD BE PRECEDED BY CLOSED DOOR MEETING INVOLVING ONLY MRS. PERON, CASILDO HERRERAS AND LORENZO MIGUEL, BUT BETWEEN NOW AND THEN LOPEZ REGA CAN BE EXPECTED TO TRY TO SO ARRANGE THINGS AS TO PRECLUDE IT.

2. RESOLVE TO GET RID OF LOPEZ REGA APPEARS IN NO WAY TO HAVE DIMINISHED. IN POINTED STATEMENT MARCH 31, UOM OFFICER (AND GOV OF BA PROVINCE) VICTORIO CALABRO QUOTED AS SAYING LABOR MOVEMENT "MUST SHOW THE ROAD TO THAT FUNCTIONARY WITH AN EXCESS OF POWER". SOURCES IN PERONIST MOVEMENT AND GOVT, HERETOFORE SOMEWHAT RETICENT IN DISCUSSING THE SOCIAL
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WELFARE MINISTER, AS THOUGH SCENTING HIS DEMISE, ARE NOW

OPENING UP AGAINST HIM. ONE PERONIST SOURCE SUMMED UP SITUATION IN FOLLOWING TERMS: "ISSUE IS NOW JOINED. LABOR, BACKED BY OTHER SECTORS, HAVE LAUNCHED ATTACK AGAINST LOPEZ REGA. TIMING IS STILL IN DOUBT. CULMINATION OF EFFORT COULD COME LATER THIS MONTH OR EVEN IN MAY. POINT IS, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS TOO LATE TO DISENGAGE."

3. LOPEZ REGA HIMSELF IS SOUNDING--AND LOOKING--VERY DEFENSIVE THESE DAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE ORGANIZED RIDICULOUS CEREMONY AT OLIVOS MARCH 31 TO SIGN MINOR AGREEMENT WITH ARMY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, BROUGHT ARMY CINC ANAYA (WHO ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS THERE LOOKED VERY UNCOMFORTABLE) TO CEREMONY AND THEN USED IT AS PLATFORM TO INSIST THAT "THERE NO PROBLEMS WITH THE ARMED FORCES OR WITH LABOR." MOST OBSERVERS THOUGHT HE WAS PROTESTING TOO MUCH.

4. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT WHILE ONE OF LABOR'S COMPLAINTS IS THAT PRESIDENT HAS ADOPTED AN OVERLY EXCLUSIVE ATTITUDE-- I.E. DEPENDING UPON ADVICE OF LOPEZ REGA AND SMALL GROUP OF COHORTS RATHER THAN BROADLY BASED CONSULTATIONS FAVORED BY PERON--, THIS DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT LABOR IS PUSHING FOR A BROAD COALITION WITH OTHER POLITICAL FORCES. ON THE CONTRARY, IN THE CONGRESS, LABOR ELEMENTS ARE IN FAVOR OF DEEMPHASIZING THE ALLIANCE AND MOVING AHEAD TO THE "PERONIZATION" OF CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WANT TO TAKE TOP JOBS AWAY FROM FREJULI ALLIES AND GIVE THEM TO PERONISTS, PREFERABLY FROM THE LABOR SECTOR. THEY ESPECIALLY WANT SALVADOR BUSACCA'S (POPULAR CHRISTIAN-PPC) JOB AS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. THEY ALSO WANT JOSE ANTONIO ALLENDE (PPC) REPLACED AS PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF SENATE, ALTHOUGH IN HIS CASE THEY WOULD HOPE TO MOVE LABOR SECTOR REP INTO VACATED SLOT.

5. MEANWHILE, MRS. PERON WILL MEET WITH REPS OF NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PARTIES IN FREJULI TODAY. NOT MUCH IS EXPECTED TO COME OF THE MEETING, HOWEVER. ONLY FRONDIZI AND POPULAR CONSERVATIVES ARE EXPECTED TO OFFER MUCH CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS02281
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750116-0250
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750486/aaaadavl.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BA 2163
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL INFIGHTING CONTINUES
TAGS: PINT, ASEC, ELAB, AR, (LOPEZ REGA, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006